

Jones. The latter was a strong anti-slavery partisan and sympathized with the Union, while the former at first rejected all overtures and determined to remain neutral during the contest. Gen. Albert Pike, in behalf of the Confederacy, endeavored to treat with Ross, but their meeting only resulted in an order from the chief that strict neutrality should be observed by his followers. At a meeting held in Tahlequah, August, 1861, in which a large number of Cherokees were present and loud in their clamors for alliance with the South, John Ross changed his views and determined, like the large majority, to ally himself with the Confederacy. He thereupon raised a regiment, placing at its head Colonel Drew, of the Home Guard, and in his address mentioned that they were to act in concert with the troops of the Southern Confederacy. This regiment, as well as that of Stand Watie, fought at Pea Ridge and elsewhere. Col. Drew's men, however, were in a wretched condition at the end of ten months' service. Half-clad and ill-fed, having never received payment for their services, and finding that the Federal troops of Col. Weir were obtaining prestige in that portion of the nation, the ill-treated warriors revolted and went over to the enemy.

Chief Ross, finding himself abandoned by Drew's regiment, concluded to make a virtue of necessity and become a loyal man. Such, he said, had been the impulse of his heart, but he had been overborne by the strength and power of the Confederate government, and felt constrained to save the material interests of his people from total destruction. He was, therefore, escorted out of the country by Col. Weir's regiment, and went to Philadelphia, where he remained three years. In the meanwhile, Stand Watie, at the head of a small army, not exceeding 800 warriors, had many engagements with Federal troops, and in the spring of 1863, after the government had returned the refugees to their homes in time to plant their crops, he scoured the country in the vicinity of Tahlequah and drove before him the frightened tillers of